

Message Text

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3560

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AORG, OCON, IAEA TECH VCIS

SUBJECT: IAEA PANEL ON RADON IN URANIUM MINING,
WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPT 4-7, 1973

REF: PRAGUE 2468 AND PREVIOUS

1. I AM DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE
U.S. VISA TO CZECH SCIENTIST PILCH DID NOT REACH PRAGUE
UNTIL DAY PANEL CONVENED. I TRUST APPROPRIATE STEPS WILL
BE TAKEN TO AVOID SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN FUTURE. APPRECIATE
EMBASSY EFFORTS EASE BOTH THINGS OVER WITH LETTER OF
APOLOGY.

2. I RECALL THAT IN 1968, WHEN SOVIETS HAD REFUSED
VISAS TO SCIENTISTS FROM ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA TO ATTEND
IAEA PLASMA PHYSICS AND CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR FUSION
CONFERENCE IN NOVOSIBIRSK, THE U.S., FROM THE PRESIDENT
ON DOWN, TOOK VERY HARD LINE AND STRONGLY PROTESTED TO
IAEA SECRETARIAT, THREATENING NOT RPT NOT TO PERMIT ANY
U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE UNLESS SITUATION RECTIFIED.

AFTER CONSIDERABLE LAST MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS, (WHICH
AMBASSADOR TAPE CERTAINLY RECALLS, SINCE HE HAD
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ARRANGED TO VISIT USSR AND ATTEND NOVOSIBIRSK CONFERENCE

IN HIS CAPACITY AT THAT TIME AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE AEC) MATTER WAS PARTIALLY RESOLVED, AND ONE RESULT WAS THAT IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN IAEA CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA, STRESSING INHERENT RIGHT OF ALL MEMBER STATES TO BE REPRESENTED AT SUCH MEETINGS. REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY ARE HELD. THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REFLECTED IN AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE CONCLUDED BETWEEN IAEA AND HOST GOVERNMENTS IN CASES WHERE SUCH MEETINGS ARE HELD IN MEMBER STATES. (ANOTHER RESULT WAS THAT NOVOSIBIRSK CONFERENCE WAS FIRST AND LAST MAJOR IAEA MEETING HELD SO FAR IN USSR.)

3. WHILE THERE ARE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IAEA CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA (WHERE PARTICIPATION IS OPEN) AND THE SMALLER IAEA MEETINGS (SUCH AS PANELS, STUDY GROUPS, WORKING GROUPS, RESEARCH COORDINATION MEETINGS, ETC., WHERE PARTICIPATION IS BY INVITATION AND THUS LIMITED), AND IAEA HAS NOT YET NOT SOUGHT TO INSIST ON TYPE OF HOST GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT REQUIRED FOR LARGER, OPEN MEETINGS IN CASES OF PANELS, ETC., IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLE SHOULD APPLY, AND THAT A HOST GOVERNMENT, ONCE IT OFFERS TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING IN ITS TERRITORY, SHOULD NOT YET NOT BE PERMITTED TO ARBITRARILY EXCLUDE PARTICIPANTS INVITED BY IAEA TO ATTEND, AND IF, FOR SOME REASON THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED FINDS IT NECESSARY TO DO SO, THEN THE MEETING SHOULD BE CANCELLED OR MOVED TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

4. I AM WELL AWARE THAT USG HAD NO INTENTION ARBITRARILY EXCLUDE PILCH AND THAT DELAY IN APPROVAL OF HIS VISA APPLICATION WAS DUE TO TIME-CONSUMING PROCEDURES AND ERROR IN SENDING APPROVAL TO WARSAW RATHER THAN PRAGUE. HOWEVER, CZECH GOVERNMENT COULD WELL REGARD OUR ACTIONS AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO PROVE OTHERWISE.

5. IN THE CASE OF THIS PARTICULAR PANEL, WHICH PILCH, AS AN INVITED EXPERT IN THE FIELD, WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND, THE U.S., IN VIEW OF SPECIAL AEC INTEREST, TOOK THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INITIATIVE TO HAVE ITS LOCATION CHANGED FROM IAEA HEAD-QUARTERS IN VIENNA TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (WHERE DEPT KINDLY OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE CONFERENCE ROOM WITH NECESSARY FACILITIES). THIS IN ITSELF REQUIRED SOME PERSUADING, BUT AGENCY FINALLY AGREED. IT IS PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING, THEREFORE, THAT VISA MIXUP WITH PILCH OCCURRED IN THIS CASE, SINCE HE WOULD HAVE HAD NO YET NO PROBLEM IN ATTENDING MEETING IF IT HAD BEEN HELD AT

IAEA HEADQUARTERS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

6. WHILE IAEA HAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED MATTER WITH US
IN ANY FORMAL WAY AND IS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO DO SO,
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WE ARE VULNERABLE TO LEGITIMATE DOUBLE-
STANDARD CRITICISM OVER HANDLING OF PILCH'S VISA, AND
IAEA COULD, IF IT CHOSE TO DO SO, MAKE A CAUSE CELEBRE
OUT OF IT. IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, INDEED VITAL,
IN TERMS OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS IN THIS ORGANIZATION,
THAT THIS TYPE OF SITUATION NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO OCCUR
AGAIN.
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